

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Army Private First Class Benny S. Franklin.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Private First Class Benny S. Franklin upon his death in ground combat actions during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin of Hammond was a 2004 graduate of Hammond High School, where he was active in Jr. ROTC, serving in leadership roles with the program for nearly two years, maintaining a very high grade point average and developing deep friendships with his fellow students; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin enlisted in the United States Army shortly after leaving high school, choosing the rough and tumble role of an airborne soldier and successfully completing the army's highly rigorous jump school training at Fort Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin continued his intensive training after jump school, concentrating on learning the techniques and sharpening the tools necessary to become a field radio telephone operator for a forward observer team finding targets for the field artillery; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin subsequently was assigned as a radio

1 operator for a forward observer team assigned to A Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 319<sup>th</sup> Airborne  
2 Field Artillery Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, one of the United States Army's most elite  
3 units worldwide; and

4 WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin was very proud to be a part of such a  
5 historically renowned unit such as the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and he worked exhaustively to meet and  
6 excel the incredibly high standards expected of the elite paratroopers; and

7 WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin was 19 years of age when he joined other  
8 paratroopers in combat operations on October 7, 2005, near the town of Gereshk in Helmand  
9 Province on a predawn patrol to find, fix, and destroy elements of a terrorist force operating  
10 in the area and attempting to disrupt national elections scheduled to be held soon; and

11 WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin and other airborne troops engaged enemy  
12 forces that day and during the fight Private First Class Franklin was mortally wounded when  
13 he encountered an enemy land mine; and

14 WHEREAS, Private First Class Franklin was considered by his peers to be an  
15 outstanding soldier, he was also highly decorated for his actions in the theater of operations,  
16 and his awards included the Bronze Star Medal for Valor in combat, the Purple Heart Medal  
17 for wounds received in combat, the Army Commendation Medal for Valor in combat, the  
18 National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the  
19 Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Parachutist's Badge, and  
20 the highly coveted Combat Action Badge.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
22 does hereby extend its deepest and most sincere condolences to the family of United States  
23 Army Private First Class Benny S. Franklin for his brave combat service to his country in  
24 Operation Enduring Freedom.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 family of Private First Class Benny S. Franklin as a symbol of grief from the Senate of the  
27 Legislature of Louisiana in honor of their sacrifice and loss in the United States War on  
28 Terror.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Marionneaux

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Expresses condolences to the family of United States Army Private First Class Benny S. Franklin upon his death in Operation Enduring Freedom.